

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

81 Higuera Street, Suite 200
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-5427

ORDER NO. 97-04

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
REFUGIO STATE BEACH
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, (hereafter Board), finds that:

1. On August 8, 1994, Mr. Gary Gould, Park Maintenance Supervisor, reported a proposed waste discharge in accordance with California Water Code Section 13260 and requested authorization for the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Discharger) to discharge domestic wastewater at the Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County.
2. The discharge is on property owned by the Discharger, as shown on Attachment "A", in Section 1, T4N, R31W, SB B&M.
3. The Discharger constructed a new multipurpose building with associated septic tank/leachfield system and rehabilitated State Beach grounds. New shower/toilet facilities equipped with low-flow fixtures replaced aged works. Rehabilitation involved campground grading to direct stormwater runoff away from Refugio Creek and to retention/percolation basins in the beach area. The Discharger routed the sanitary waste force-main away from the lagoon and did not increase the number of campsites.
4. Depending on State Beach attendance, from 2,000 gpd to 7,000 gpd of domestic wastewater is treated in septic tanks and disposed of in five leachfields. The treatment/disposal system can accommodate up to 20,000 gpd.
5. The leachfields lie on fairly level topography underlain by clay soils. The disposal areas are

very near the Pacific Ocean. The ocean's salinity likely renders ground water beneath or just downgradient from the disposal site nonpotable. Also, the Discharger controls the property and the installation of water supply wells. Historical knowledge indicates that the Parks are unlikely sites for water supply wells due to naturally occurring poor water quality. Therefore, it is very unlikely that the discharge will adversely affect a water supply. The disposal sites cannot contaminate the State Beach's drinking water because the supply wells are thousands of feet away.

6. The Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coastal Basin, (Basin Plan) was adopted by the Board on November 17, 1989, and approved by the State Board on August 16, 1990. The Board approved amendments to the Basin Plan on February 11, 1994 and September 8, 1994. The Basin Plan incorporates State Board plans and policies by reference and contains a strategy for protecting beneficial uses of State waters.
7. No current or anticipated beneficial uses exist for the ground water underlying the disposal site.
8. Present and anticipated beneficial uses of the Pacific Ocean underlying the disposal site include:
 - a. Contact and noncontact water recreation;
 - b. Marine habitat;
 - c. Shellfish harvesting;
 - d. Ocean commercial and sportfishing.

9. Waste discharge requirements for this discharge are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21100, et seq.) in accordance with the California Water Code Section 13389. As an existing facility, the State Beach rehabilitation and new construction is exempt from the Act's requirements.
10. A permit and the privilege to discharge waste into waters of the State are conditional upon the discharge complying with provisions of Division 7 of the California Water Code and with any more stringent effluent limitations necessary to implement water quality control plans, to protect beneficial uses, and to prevent nuisance.

Compliance with this Order should assure conditions are met and mitigate any potential changes in water quality due to the project.

11. On **November 15, 1996**, the Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to reissue waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with a copy of the proposed Order and an opportunity to submit written views and comments, and scheduled a public hearing.
12. In a public hearing on April 4, 1997, the Board heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge and found this Order consistent with the above findings.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to the authority of California Water Code Sections 13263 and 13377, that the California Department of Parks and Recreation, its agents, successors, and assigns, may discharge domestic wastewater at Refugio State Beach, providing compliance is maintained with the following:

(Note: General permit conditions, definitions and the method of determining compliance are contained in the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements," dated January, 1984. Applicable paragraphs are referenced in paragraph C.2 of this Order.)

A. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

1. Discharge of treated wastewater at locations other than as shown on Attachment "A" is prohibited.
2. Discharge of any wastes, including overflow, bypass and seepage from transport, treatment or disposal systems to adjacent drainageways, the Pacific Ocean or adjacent properties is prohibited.
3. Surfacing of sanitary wastewater on the ground surface is prohibited.
4. Bypass of septic tanks and discharge of untreated or partially treated wastes directly to subsurface disposal areas is prohibited.
5. Discharge of any wastewater within 100 feet of any domestic, agricultural, industrial or commercial water supply well is prohibited.

B. DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS

1. Daily flow averaged over each month shall not exceed 20,000 gpd.

Flow limits are not an entitlement, but a maximum allowable capacity provided all other conditions of this Order are met.

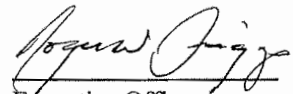
2. Effluent discharged to disposal areas shall not have a pH less than 6.5 or greater than 8.4.
3. Extraneous surface drainage shall be excluded from disposal areas.
4. For septic tanks without such structures, risers to the ground surface and manholes shall be installed over the tank inspection ports and access ports.
5. The public shall not have contact with wastewater as a result of the treatment and disposal operations.

C. PROVISIONS

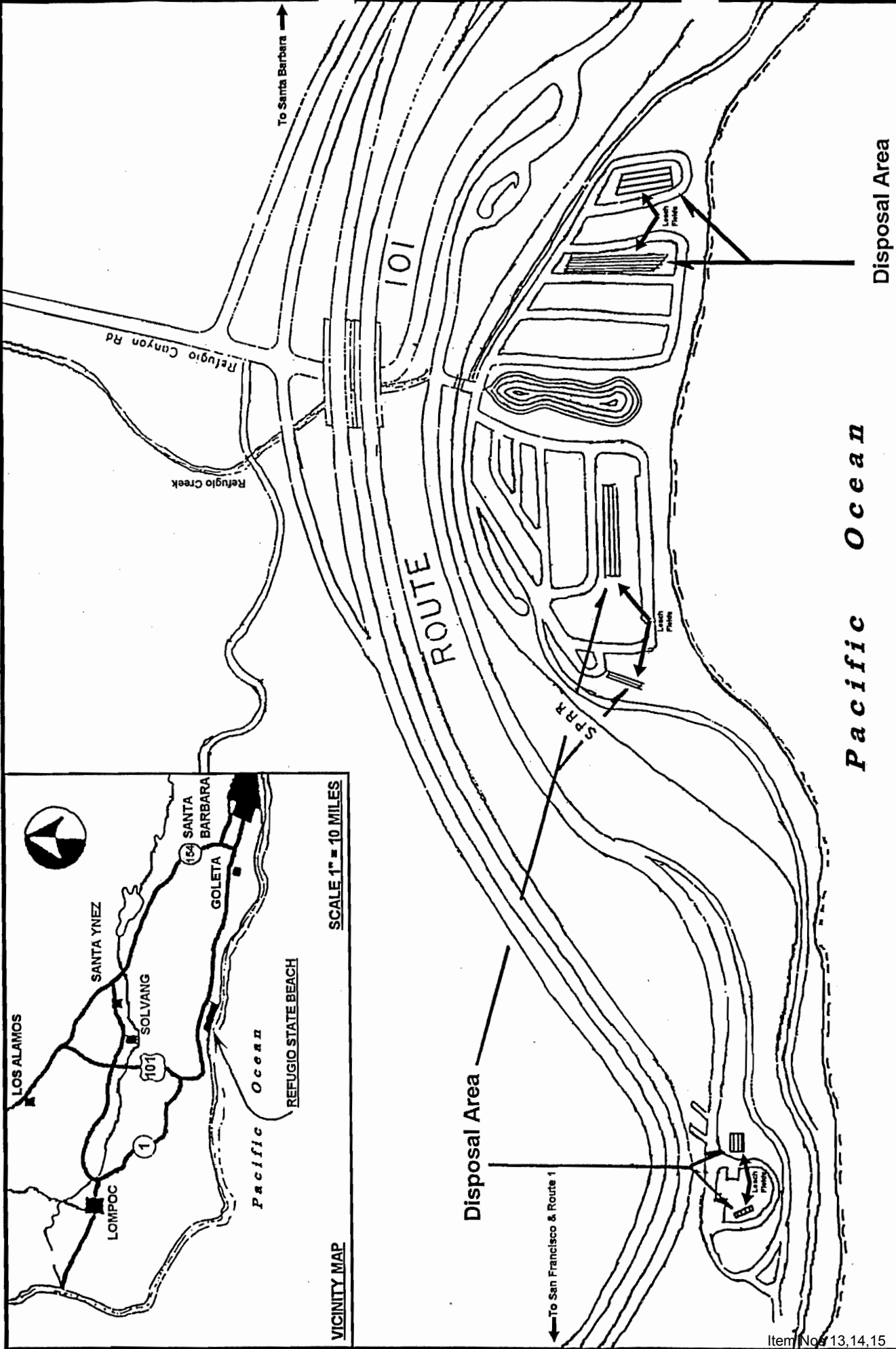
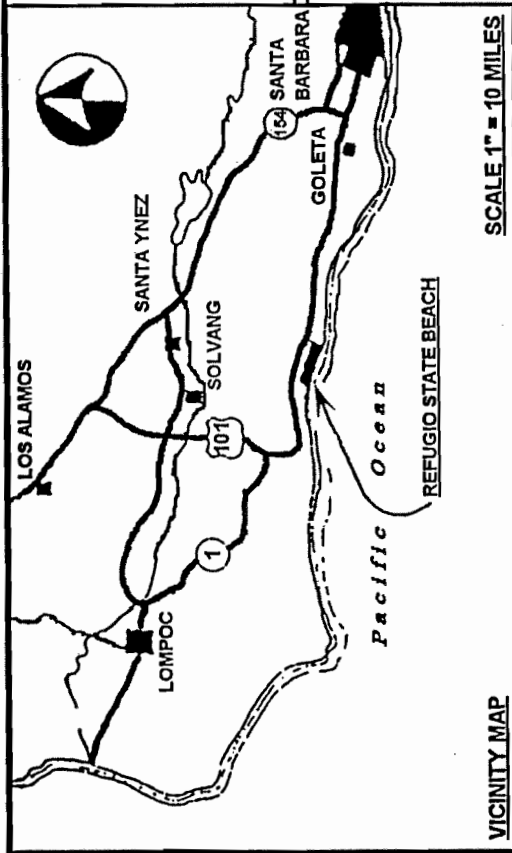
1. The Discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-04," as specified by the Executive Officer.
2. The Discharger shall comply with all items of the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge

- Requirements" dated January 1984, except A.6, A.8, A.11, A.13, A.17 and C.16.
3. Wastewater treatment system repairs and expansions shall be made in accordance with this Board's Basin Plan.
 4. The Discharger shall operate and maintain all wastewater facilities in accordance with an Operations Manual for the camp that is subject to the approval of the Executive Officer. The Operations Manual, including a copy of as-built plans, shall be periodically updated whenever there is a change in operational procedures or an expansion of the system.
 5. Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations Title 23, Chapter 3, Subchapter 9, the Discharger must submit a written report to the Executive Officer not later than January 1, 2002, addressing:
 - a. Whether there will be changes in the continuity, character, location, or volume of the discharge; and,
 - b. Whether, in their opinion, there is any portion of the Order that is incorrect, obsolete, or otherwise in need of revision.

I, **ROGER W. BRIGGS, Executive Officer**, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, on April 4, 1997.


Executive Officer

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Refugio State Beach **Attachment A**

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 97-04
FOR
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
REFUGIO STATE BEACH
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Effluent Monitoring

Monitoring of septic tank effluent shall include the following:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
Daily Flow	gals/day	--	Total average daily flowrate for each month.

Septic Tank Maintenance

Septic tanks shall be inspected and pumped as described below. The inspection is not required during the year it is pumped.

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Type of Measurement</u>	<u>Minimum Inspection Frequency</u>
Sludge depth and scum thickness in each compartment of each septic tank	Feet	Staff Gauge	Annually (by April of each year)
Distance between bottom of scum layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	" "
Distance between top of sludge layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	" "

Septic tanks shall be pumped when any one of the following conditions exist, or may occur before the next inspection:

- a. The combined thickness of sludge and scum exceeds one-third of the tank depth of the first compartment; or,
- b. The scum layer is within three inches of the outlet device; or,
- c. The sludge layer is within eight inches of the outlet device.

In lieu of septic tank measuring, the septic tanks may be pumped annually.

Disposal Area Monitoring

The disposal areas shall be inspected at least monthly for surfacing effluent, saturated surface areas, and odors. Evidence of any condition of this nature shall be reported to the Executive Officer within 24 hours of being discovered and promptly investigated and remedied. A record shall be kept of dates, nature of observations, remedies and when disposal areas are alternated.

Reporting

Reports shall be submitted annually by the 20th of May and shall contain all data collected or calculated over the previous year.

Ordered by: _____

Executive Officer

Date: _____

4-9-97

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